## AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2009 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2009

## **SENATE BILL**

No. 505

## **Introduced by Senator Kehoe**

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Sections 65302 and 65302.5 of, and to add Section 65040.7 to, the Government Code, and to add Sections 21083.01 and 21096.5 to the Public Resources Code, relating to local planning.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 505, as amended, Kehoe. Local planning: fire hazard impacts.

(1) Existing law authorizes the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), to furnish information and technical and professional advice on the preparation, adoption, amendment, and implementation of specified plans, including general plans, when requested by a local or regional agency.

This bill would require OPR, on or before January 1, 2011, to update its "Fire Hazard Planning" document prepared as part of the General Plan Technical Advice Series and issued in November of 2003.

(2) The Planning and Zoning Law requires that a city or county general plan consist of various elements, including, among other things, land use, circulation, housing, open space, conservation, and safety elements, which are required to meet specified requirements. The safety element is for the protection of the community from unreasonable risks associated with, among other things, the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, dam failure, and wild land and urban fires. The safety element includes requirements for state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. The procedures for adopting a safety element require

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that both the draft element or draft amendment to the safety element pursuant to a specified schedule and that an existing safety element pursuant to a specified schedule be submitted to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and to local agencies that provide fire protection to territory in the city or county.

This bill would revise the safety element requirements for state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified, and require the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2010, but no later than January 1, 2015, to-take into account consider the advice contained within the OPR's "Fire Hazard Planning" document and subsequent revisions. The procedures for adopting a safety element would include the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as one of the specified agencies that both the draft element or draft amendment to the safety element is required to be submitted to pursuant to a specified schedule by a city or county and that an existing safety element be submitted to pursuant to a specified schedule. By imposing new duties on local officials for the adoption of a general plan, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA requires OPR to prepare and develop proposed guidelines for the implementation of CEQA by public agencies.

This bill would require OPR, on or after January 1, 2010, at the time of the next update of guidelines implementing CEQA, in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to prepare, develop, and transmit to the Natural Resources Agency guidelines recommending changes to the initial study checklist for the inclusion of questions related to fire hazard impacts for projects located on lands in state responsibility areas, as defined, and on lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined. The Natural Resources Agency would be required to certify and adopt guidelines prepared and developed by the OPR in accordance with these provisions.

The bill would require a lead agency to consult with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and responsible agencies, and submit notices to the \_3\_ SB 505

department and the board for specified projects located in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. Because this bill would impose new duties on local government with respect to consultation and notice requirements, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:* 

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 65040.7 is added to the Government 2 Code, to read:
- 3 65040.7. On or after before January 1, 2011, the Office of Planning and Research shall update its "Fire Hazard Planning"
- 5 document prepared as part of the General Plan Technical Advice
- 6 Series and issued in November of 2003.

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- 7 SEC. 2. Section 65302 of the Government Code is amended 8 to read:
  - 65302. The general plan shall consist of a statement of development policies and shall include a diagram or diagrams and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals. The plan shall include the following elements:
  - (a) A land use element that designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste disposal facilities, and other categories of public and private uses of land. The location and designation of the extent of the uses of the land for public and private uses shall consider the identification of land and natural resources pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d). The land use element shall include a statement of
- 23 the standards of population density and building intensity
- 24 recommended for the various districts and other territory covered
- 25 by the plan. The land use element shall identify and annually

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1 review those areas covered by the plan that are subject to flooding 2 identified by flood plain mapping prepared by the Federal 3 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Department of 4 Water Resources. The land use element shall also do both of the 5 following:

- (1) Designate in a land use category that provides for timber production those parcels of real property zoned for timberland production pursuant to the California Timberland Productivity Act of 1982 (Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 51100) of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5).
- (2) Consider the impact of new growth on military readiness activities carried out on military bases, installations, and operating and training areas, when proposing zoning ordinances or designating land uses covered by the general plan for land, or other territory adjacent to military facilities, or underlying designated military aviation routes and airspace.
- (A) In determining the impact of new growth on military readiness activities, information provided by military facilities shall be considered. Cities and counties shall address military impacts based on information from the military and other sources.
  - (B) The following definitions govern this paragraph:
  - (i) "Military readiness activities" mean all of the following:
- (I) Training, support, and operations that prepare the men and women of the military for combat.
- (II) Operation, maintenance, and security of any military installation.
- (III) Testing of military equipment, vehicles, weapons, and sensors for proper operation or suitability for combat use.
- (ii) "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Defense as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of Section 2687 of Title 10 of the United States Code.
- (b) (1) A circulation element consisting of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, any military airports and ports, and other local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the land use element of the plan.
- (2) (A) Commencing January 1, 2011, upon any substantive revision of the circulation element, the legislative body shall

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modify the circulation element to plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the general plan.

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- (B) For purposes of this paragraph, "users of streets, roads, and highways" means bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, pedestrians, users of public transportation, and seniors.
- (c) A housing element as provided in Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580).
- (d) (1) A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.
- (2) The conservation element may also cover all of the following:
  - (A) The reclamation of land and waters.
- (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.
- (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.
- (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.
  - (E) Protection of watersheds.
- 39 (F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and 40 gravel resources.

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(3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and stormwater management.

- (e) An open-space element as provided in Article 10.5 (commencing with Section 65560).
- (f) (1) A noise element that shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:
  - (A) Highways and freeways.
  - (B) Primary arterials and major local streets.
- (C) Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.
- (D) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.
- (E) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.
- (F) Other ground stationary noise sources, including, but not limited to, military installations, identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.
- (2) Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level ( $L_{dn}$ ). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.
- (3) The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.
- (4) The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state's noise insulation standards.

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(g) (1) A safety element for the protection of the community 2 from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of 3 seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground 4 failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading 5 to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other 6 seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wild land and urban fires. The safety element shall include 10 mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire 14 and geologic hazards.

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- (2) The safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, shall also do the following:
- (A) Identify information regarding flood hazards, including, but not limited to, the following:
- (i) Flood hazard zones. As used in this subdivision, "flood hazard zone" means an area subject to flooding that is delineated as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate or minimal hazard on an official flood insurance rate map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The identification of a flood hazard zone does not imply that areas outside the flood hazard zones or uses permitted within flood hazard zones will be free from flooding or flood damage.
- (ii) National Flood Insurance Program maps published by FEMA.
- (iii) Information about flood hazards that is available from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- (iv) Designated floodway maps that are available from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.
- (v) Dam failure inundation maps prepared pursuant to Section 8589.5 that are available from the Office of Emergency Services.
- (vi) Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program maps and 200-year flood plain maps that are or may be available from, or accepted by, the Department of Water Resources.
  - (vii) Maps of levee protection zones.
- 39 (viii) Areas subject to inundation in the event of the failure of 40 project or nonproject levees or floodwalls.

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(ix) Historical data on flooding, including locally prepared maps of areas that are subject to flooding, areas that are vulnerable to flooding after wildfires, and sites that have been repeatedly damaged by flooding.

- (x) Existing and planned development in flood hazard zones, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
- (xi) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for flood protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.
- (B) Establish a set of comprehensive goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risks of flooding, including, but not limited to:
- (i) Avoiding or minimizing the risks of flooding to new development.
- (ii) Evaluating whether new development should be located in flood hazard zones, and identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if new development is located in flood hazard zones.
- (iii) Maintaining the structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding.
- (iv) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in flood hazard zones.
- (v) Establishing cooperative working relationships among public agencies with responsibility for flood protection.
- (C) Establish a set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives established pursuant to subparagraph (B).
- (3) For land classified as state responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102 of the Public Resources Code, and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in Section 51177, the safety element, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2010, but no later than January 1, 2015, shall take into account consider the advice of "Fire Hazard Planning" (Office of Planning and Research, General Plan Technical Advice

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1 Series, November 2003) and subsequent revisions, and shall also include all of the following:

- (A) Information regarding fire hazards, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
- (i) Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
- (ii) Historical data on wildfires, including locally prepared maps of areas that are subject to wildfires, areas that are vulnerable to wildfires, and sites that have been repeatedly damaged by wildfires.
- (ii) Historical data on wildfires, including maps prepared by local agencies displaying areas that have been historically subject to wildfires.
- (iii) Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be available from the United States Geological Survey.
- (iv) General location and distribution of existing and planned development in fire hazard very high fire hazard severity zones, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.
- (v) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire protection, including special districts and local offices of emergency services.
- (B) Establish a set of—comprehensive goals, policies, and objectives based on the information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) for the protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
- (i) Avoiding or minimizing the risks of wildfire to new development.
- (ii) Evaluating whether new development should be located in state responsibility areas or very high fire hazard severity zones and identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if new development is located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone.
- (i) Identifying construction design or methods, including fire resistive construction materials, fuels management methods, or other methods, to minimize damage if new development is located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard severity zone.
- 38 <del>(iii)</del>

39 (ii) Supporting appropriate siting, access, fuels management, 40 and fire resistive construction materials.

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1 (iv)

(iii) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities are located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone.

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- (iv) Working cooperatively with public agencies with responsibility for fire protection.
- (C) Establish a set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives established pursuant to subparagraph (B).
- (4) After the initial revision of the safety element pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3), upon each revision of the housing element, the planning agency shall review and, if necessary, revise the safety element to identify new information that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element.
- (5) Cities and counties that have flood plain management ordinances that have been approved by FEMA that substantially comply with this section, or have substantially equivalent provisions to this subdivision in their general plans, may use that information in the safety element to comply with this subdivision, and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the safety element the other general plan provisions or the flood plain ordinance, specifically showing how each requirement of this subdivision has been met.
- (6) Prior to the periodic review of its general plan and prior to preparing or revising its safety element, each city and county shall consult the California Geological Survey of the Department of Conservation, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, if the city or county is located within the boundaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District, as set forth in Section 8501 of the Water Code, and the Office of Emergency Services for the purpose of including information known by and available to the department, the office, and the board required by this subdivision.
- (7) To the extent that a county's safety element is sufficiently detailed and contains appropriate policies and programs for adoption by a city, a city may adopt that portion of the county's

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safety element that pertains to the city's planning area in 2 satisfaction of the requirement imposed by this subdivision. 3

**SEC. 2.** 

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SEC. 3. Section 65302.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65302.5. (a) At least 45 days prior to adoption or amendment of the safety element, each county and city shall submit to the California Geological Survey of the Department of Conservation one copy of a draft of the safety element or amendment and any technical studies used for developing the safety element. The division may review drafts submitted to it to determine whether they incorporate known seismic and other geologic hazard information, and report its findings to the planning agency within 30 days of receipt of the draft of the safety element or amendment pursuant to this subdivision. The legislative body shall consider the division's findings prior to final adoption of the safety element or amendment unless the division's findings are not available within the above prescribed time limits or unless the division has indicated to the city or county that the division will not review the safety element. If the division's findings are not available within those prescribed time limits, the legislative body may take the division's findings into consideration at the time it considers future amendments to the safety element. Each county and city shall provide the division with a copy of its adopted safety element or amendments. The division may review adopted safety elements or amendments and report its findings. All findings made by the division shall be advisory to the planning agency and legislative body.

- (b) (1) The draft element of or draft amendment to the safety element of a county or a city's general plan shall be submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and to every local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county at least 90 days prior to either of the following:
- (A) The adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each county that contains state responsibility areas.
- (B) The adoption or amendment to the safety element of its general plan for each city or county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone as defined pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51177.

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(2) A county that contains state responsibility areas and a city or county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone as defined pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51177 shall submit for review the safety element of its general plan to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and to every local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county in accordance with the following dates, as specified, unless the local government submitted the element within five years prior to that date:

- (A) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the San Diego Association of Governments: December 31, 2010.
- (B) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Southern California Association of Governments: December 31, 2011.
- (C) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Association of Bay Area Governments: December 31, 2012.
- (D) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Council of Fresno County Governments, the Kern County Council of Governments, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments: June 30, 2013.
- (E) Local governments within the regional jurisdiction of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: December 31, 2014.
  - (F) All other local governments: December 31, 2015.
- (3) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection shall, and a local agency may, review the draft or an existing safety element and report its written recommendations to the planning agency within 60 days of its receipt of the draft or existing safety element. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the local agency shall review the draft or existing safety element within 60 days of its receipt and may offer written recommendations for changes to the draft or existing safety element regarding both of the following:
- (A) Uses of land and policies in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones that will protect life, property, and natural resources from unreasonable risks associated with wildland fires.

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(B) Methods and strategies for wildland fire risk reduction and prevention within state responsibility areas and very high hazard severity zones.

- (4) Prior to the adoption of its draft element or draft amendment, the board of supervisors of the county or the city council of a city shall consider the recommendations made by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and any local agency that provides fire protection to territory in the city or county. If the board of supervisors or city council determines not to accept all or some of the recommendations, if any, made by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, or local agency, the board of supervisors or city council shall communicate in writing to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, or to the local agency, its reasons for not accepting the recommendations.
- (5) If the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, or local agency's recommendations are not available within the time limits required by this section, the board of supervisors or city council may act without those recommendations. The board of supervisors or city council shall take the recommendations into consideration at the next time it considers amendments to the safety element.

SEC. 3.

- SEC. 4. Section 21083.01 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:
- 21083.01. (a) On or after January 1, 2010, at the time of the next update of the guidelines implementing this division, the Office of Planning and Research, in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, shall prepare, develop, and transmit to the Natural Resources Agency, guidelines recommending changes to the initial study checklist of the guidelines implementing this division for the inclusion of questions related to fire hazard impacts for projects located on lands classified as state responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102, and on lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code.

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1 (b) Upon receipt and review, the Natural Resources Agency 2 shall certify and adopt guidelines prepared and developed by the 3 Office of Planning and Research pursuant to subdivision (a).

SEC. 4.

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- 5 SEC. 5. Section 21096.5 is added to the Public Resources Code, 6 to read:
- 7 21096.5. (a) A lead agency shall consult with the Department 8 of Forestry and Fire Protection and the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for projects identified pursuant to subdivision 10 (c) that are located within a state responsibility area, as defined in Section 4102, or a very high fire hazard severity zone, as defined 11 in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code. 12 13 Consultation shall be conducted in the same manner as for 14 responsible agencies pursuant to this division, including Sections 15 21080.3, 21080.4, 21104, and 21153.
  - (b) A lead agency shall submit notices, as required by Sections 21080.4 and 21092, to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for projects identified pursuant to subdivision (c) that are located within a state responsibility area, as defined in Section 4102, or a very high fire hazard severity zone, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 51177 of the Government Code.
  - (c) Projects that are subject to the requirements of this section are all of the following:
  - (1) Development agreements pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 65864) of Chapter 4 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code.
  - (2) Tentative maps and vesting tentative maps pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) of Title 7 of the Government Code).
  - (3) Projects of sufficient statewide, regional, or areawide environmental significance, as determined pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 21083.

34 SEC. 5.

35 SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to 36 Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because 37 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service 38 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or **— 15 —** SB 505

- level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.